

ISSP 1998 – Religion II

- Questionnaire -

Northern Ireland

1 9 9 8

Serial Number

ID

Self-completion questionnaire A

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you very much for agreeing to take part in this annual study and for already completing the main part of the interview. There are some further questions to be answered in this booklet - including some that are being asked in twenty eight other countries, as part of an international survey. Most of the questions can be answered simply by circling the number in one or more of the boxes. It will take about fifteen minutes to complete and we hope you will find the questions interesting and enjoyable. **Only you should fill it in, and not anyone else at your address.** The answers you give will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

Your interviewer can either call back for this questionnaire at a time convenient to you, or wait if you prefer to fill it in now.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP.



Joint Project between The Queen's
University of Belfast and the University of
Ulster



RUHAPPY

Q1. If you were to consider your life in general these days, how happy or unhappy would you say you are, on the whole? (Please circle one number only.)

Very happy	1
Fairly happy	2
Not very happy	3
Not at all happy	4
Can't choose	8

Q2. On the whole, do you think it should or should not be the government's responsibility to...(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Definitely should be	Probably should be	Probably should <u>not</u> be	Definitely should <u>not</u> be	Can't choose
<i>GOVRESPI</i> a. Provide a job for everyone who wants one?	1	2	3	4	8
<i>GOVRESP7</i> b. Reduce income differences between the rich and poor?	1	2	3	4	8

SEXBFMAR

Q3. Do you think it is wrong or not wrong if a man and a woman have sexual relations before marriage? (Please circle one number only)

Always wrong	1
Almost always wrong	2
Wrong only sometimes	3
Not wrong at all	4
Can't choose	8

ADULTERY

Q4. What about a married person having sexual relations with someone other than his or her wife or husband, is it...? (Please circle one number only.)

Always wrong	1
almost always wrong	2
Wrong only sometimes	3
Not wrong at all	4
Can't choose	8

SEXHOMO

Q5. And what about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex, is it...?
(Please circle one number only.)

Always wrong	1
almost always wrong	2
Wrong only sometimes	3
Not wrong at all	4
Can't choose	8

Q6. Do you personally think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion...
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Always wrong	Almost always wrong	Wrong only sometimes	Not wrong at all	Can't choose
<i>ABORWRGA</i> a. If there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby?	1	2	3	4	8
<i>ABORWRGB</i> b. If the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children?	1	2	3	4	8

Q7. Do you agree or disagree...
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>SEXROLE</i> a. A husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family?	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>WWFAMSUF</i> b. All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q8. Do you agree or disagree...
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>MARVIE11</i> a. It is all right for a couple to live together without intending to get married?	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MARVIE12</i> b. It is a good idea for a couple who intend to get married to live together first?	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q9. Consider the situations listed below. Do you feel it is wrong or not wrong if...
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Not wrong	A bit wrong	Wrong	Seriously wrong	Can't choose
<i>TAXCHEAT</i> a. A tax payer does not report all of his or her income in order to pay less income taxes?	1	2	3	4	8
<i>BENCHEAT</i> b. A person gives the government incorrect information about themselves to get government benefits that they are not entitled to?	1	2	3	4	8

PEOPADVT

Q10. How often do you think that people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance and how often would they try to be fair?
(Please circle one number only.)

Try to take advantage almost all of the time	1
Try to take advantage most of the time	2
Try to be fair most of the time	3
Try to be fair almost all of the time	4
Can't choose	8

PEOPTRST

Q11. Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? *(Please circle one number only.)*

People can almost always be trusted	1
People can usually be trusted	2
You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people	3
You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people	4
Can't choose	8

Q12. How much confidence do you have in...?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Complete confidence	Great deal of confidence	Some confidence	Very little confidence	No confidence at all	Can't choose
<i>PARLCONF</i> a. Parliament at Westminster?	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>BUSCONF</i> b. Business and Industry?	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CHCHCONF</i> c. Churches and religious organisations	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CORTCONF</i> d. Courts and the legal system	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>SCHLCONF</i> e. Schools and the educational system?	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q13. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>RLGINFVT</i> a. Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RLGINFGV</i> b. Religious leaders should not try to influence government decisions	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q14. Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>SCIEHARM</i> a. Overall, modern science does more harm than good	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>SCIETRST</i> b...We trust too much in science and not enough in religious faith	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q15. And do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>RELPROB1</i> a. Looking around the world, religions bring more conflict than peace	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RELPROB2</i> b. People with very strong religious beliefs are often too intolerant of others	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RELPROB3</i> c. Northern Ireland would be a better country if religion had less influence	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q16. Have you done any voluntary activity in the past twelve months in any of the following areas? Voluntary activity is unpaid work, not just belonging to an organisation or group. It should be of service or benefit to other people or the community and not only to one's family or personal friends.

During the last 12 months did you do volunteer work in any of the following areas?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

If the same voluntary activity falls under two or more of the categories listed above, please report it only once under the first relevant category. For example, if you were involved in political campaigning for a candidate endorsed by a church or religious group, you would report it under **a. Political activities** not under **c. Religious and church-related activities**.

	No	Yes, once or twice	Yes, 3-5 times	Yes, 6 or more times
<i>VOLACT1</i> a. Political activities (helping political parties, political movements, election campaigns, etc.)	1	2	3	4
<i>VOLACT2</i> b. Charitable activities (helping the sick, elderly, poor, etc.)	1	2	3	4
<i>VOLACT3</i> c. Religious and church-related activities (helping churches and religious groups)	1	2	3	4
<i>VOLACT4</i> d. Any other kind of voluntary activities	1	2	3	4

CHCHPOWR

Q17. Do you think that churches and religious organisations in this country have too much or too little power? (Please circle one number only.)

Far too much power	1
Too much power	2
About the right amount of power	3
Too little power	4
Far too little power	5
Can't choose	8

GODBELF1

Q18. Please tick one box below to show which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God. (Please circle one number only.)

I don't believe in God	1
I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out	2
I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind	3
I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others	4
While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God	5
I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it	6

GODBELF2

Q19. Which best describes your beliefs about God? (Please circle one number only.)

I don't believe in God now and I never have	1
I don't believe in God now, but I used to	2
I believe in God now, but I didn't used to	3
I believe in God now and I always have	4
Can't choose	8

Q20. Do you believe in ... (Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No, probably not	No, definitely not	Can't choose
<i>AFTRLIFE</i> a. Life after death?	1	2	3	4	8
<i>HEAVEN</i> b. Heaven?	1	2	3	4	8
<i>HELL</i> c. Hell?	1	2	3	4	8
<i>RELGMIRC</i> d. Religious miracles?	1	2	3	4	8

BIBLFEEL

Q21. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?
(Please circle one number only.)

The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word	1
The Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything should be taken literally, word for word	2
The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man	3
This does not apply to me	4
Can't choose	8

Q22. Do you agree or disagree with the following?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
<i>GODCONCN</i> a. There is a God who concerns Himself with every human being personally	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>FATALIST</i> b. There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>GODGMEAN</i> c. To me, life is meaningful only because God exists	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>LFNOPURP</i> d. In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>SLFGMEAN</i> e. Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>OWNFATE</i> f. We each make our own fate	1	2	3	4	5	8

RELGCOMM

Q23. Has there ever been a turning point in your life when you made a new and personal commitment to religion?

Yes	1
No	2

MUMRELIG

Q24. What was your mother's religion when you were a child?
(Please circle one number only.)

No religion	1
Christian - no denomination	2
Catholic	3
Church of Ireland / Anglican / Episcopal	4
Baptist	5
Methodist	6
Presbyterian	7
Free Presbyterian	21
Brethren	22
United Reform Church (URC) / Congregational	23
Other Protestant (Please write in which)	27
Other Christian (Please write in which)	8
Hindu	9
Jewish	10
Islam / Muslim	11
Sikh	12
Buddhist	13
Other non-Christian (Please write in which)	14
Never knew mother / does not apply	15
Can't say / can't remember	98

DADRELIG

Q25. What was your father's religion when you were a child?
(Please circle one number only.)

No religion	1
Christian - no denomination	2
Catholic	3
Church of Ireland / Anglican / Episcopal	4
Baptist	5
Methodist	6
Presbyterian	7
Free Presbyterian	21
Brethren	22
United Reform Church (URC) / Congregational	23
Other Protestant (Please write in which)	27
Other Christian (Please write in which)	8
Hindu	9
Jewish	10
Islam / Muslim	11
Sikh	12
Buddhist	13
Other non-Christian (Please write in which)	14
Never knew father / does not apply	15
Can't say / can't remember	98

MARDNOW1

Q26. At present, are you ... (Please circle one number only.)

married,	1	Go to Q27
living as married,	2	
or, neither of these?	3	Go to Q28

PRTNRRLG

**Q27. What is your husband's / wife's / partner's religion?
(Please circle one number only.)**

No religion	1
Christian - no denomination	2
Catholic	3
Church of Ireland / Anglican / Episcopal	4
Baptist	5
Methodist	6
Presbyterian	7
Free Presbyterian	21
Brethren	22
United Reform Church (URC) / Congregational	23
Other Protestant (Please write in which)	27
Other Christian (Please write in which)	8
Hindu	9
Jewish	10
Islam / Muslim	11
Sikh	12
Buddhist	13
Other non-Christian (Please write in which)	14
Does not apply	15
Can't say / can't remember	98

MUMATTCH

**Q28. When you were a child, how often did your mother attend religious services?
(Please circle one number only.)**

Never	1
Less than once a year	2
About once or twice a year	3
Several times a year	4
About once a month	5
2-3 times a month	6
Nearly every week	7
Every week	8
Several times a week	9
No mother / mother not present	10
Can't say / can't remember	98

DADATTCH

Q29. When you were a child, how often did your father attend religious services?
(Please circle one number only.)

Never	1
Less than once a year	2
About once or twice a year	3
Several times a year	4
About once a month	5
2-3 times a month	6
Nearly every week	7
Every week	8
Several times a week	9
No father / father not present	10
Can't say / can't remember	98

RIIATTCH

Q30. And what about when you were around 11 or 12, how often did you attend religious services then? (Please circle one number only.)

Never	1
Less than once a year	2
About once or twice a year	3
Several times a year	4
About once a month	5
2-3 times a month	6
Nearly every week	7
Every week	8
Several times a week	9
Can't say / can't remember	98

PRAYFREQ

Q31. Now thinking about the present. About how often do you pray?
(Please circle one number only.)

Never	1
Less than once a year	2
About once or twice a year	3
Several times a year	4
About once a month	5
2-3 times a month	6
Nearly every week	7
Every week	8
Several times a week	9
Once a day	10
Several times a day	11

CHRCHACT

Q32. How often do you take part in the activities or organisations of a church or place of worship other than attending services? (Please circle one number only.)

Never	1
Less than once a year	2
About once or twice a year	3
Several times a year	4
About once a month	5
2-3 times a month	6
Nearly every week	7
Every week	8
Several times a week	9

RELIGIUS

Q33. Would you describe yourself as ... (Please circle one number only.)

Extremely religious	1
Very religious	2
Somewhat religious	3
Neither religious nor non-religious	4
Somewhat non-religious	5
Very non-religious	6
Extremely non-religious	7
Can't choose	8

RELTRUTH

Q34. Which of the following statements come closest to your own views? (Please circle one number only.)

There is very little truth in any religion	1
There are basic truths in many religions	2
There is truth only in one religion	3
Can't choose	8

Q35. Suppose you were riding in a car driven by a close friend. You know he is going too fast. He hits a pedestrian. He asks you to tell the police he was obeying the speed limit.

ACCEXPCT

a. Which statement comes closest to your belief about what your friend has a right to expect from you? (Please circle one number only.)

My friend has a <u>definite</u> right as a friend to expect me to testify that he was obeying the speed limit	1
My friend has <u>some</u> right as a friend to expect me to testify that he was obeying the speed limit	2
My friend has <u>no</u> right as a friend to expect me to testify that he was obeying the speed limit	3
Can't choose	8

ACCWOULD

b. What would you do in this situation? (Please circle one number only.)

Definitely tell the police that your friend <u>was</u> going faster than the speed limit	1
Probably tell the police that your friend <u>was</u> going faster than the speed limit	2
Probably tell the police that your friend <u>was not</u> going faster than the speed limit	3
Definitely tell the police that your friend <u>was not</u> going faster than the speed limit	4
Can't choose	8

Q36. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following? (Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a.	<i>WEALTHI</i> Ordinary working people get their fair share of the nation's wealth	1	2	3	4	5	8
b.	<i>RICHLAW</i> There is one law for the rich and one for the poor	1	2	3	4	5	8
c.	<i>TRADVALS</i> There is no need for strong trade unions to protect employee's working conditions and wages	1	2	3	4	5	8
d.	<i>PRENTBST</i> Private enterprise is the best way to solve Northern Ireland's economic problems	1	2	3	4	5	8
e.	<i>PUBOWNST</i> Major public services and industries ought to be in state ownership	1	2	3	4	5	8
f.	<i>GOVJOB</i> It is the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q37. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a.	<i>GOVNOSAY</i> People like me have no say in what the government does	1	2	3	4	5	8
b.	<i>GOVCOMP</i> Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on	1	2	3	4	5	8
c.	<i>LOSETCH</i> Generally speaking, those we elect lose touch with the people pretty quickly	1	2	3	4	5	8
d.	<i>PTYNTMT</i> It doesn't really matter which party is in power, in the end things go on much the same	1	2	3	4	5	8
e.	<i>VOTEINTR</i> Parties are only interested in people's votes, not in their opinions	1	2	3	4	5	8
f.	<i>VOTEONLY</i> Voting is the only way people like me can have any say about how the government runs things	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q38 Can you tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following explanations of why there are not more women in politics in Northern Ireland?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
<i>WLOSEVOT</i> a. Women lose votes	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>WNOOPP</i> b. Women are not given the opportunities by political parties	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MBETPOL</i> c. Men are better politicians than women	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q39 And thinking about the issue of parades, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements (*Please circle the appropriate number on each line.*)

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
<i>RMARCHFR</i> a. The right to march is an important freedom	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>AREAMAR</i> b. No marches should be allowed through areas that are predominantly those of the other tradition unless the residents approve	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>PARCOMM</i> c. The Parades Commission is not impartial at all	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q40 Thinking about the Protestant and Catholic traditions in Northern Ireland as well as the Chinese and Asian communities, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements: (*Please circle the appropriate number on each line.*)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
<i>CULTRAD1</i> a. Living in Northern Ireland means that we are influenced by several cultural traditions	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD2</i> b. I have my own cultural tradition and see no need to take part in any others	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD3</i> c. Having different cultural traditions in Northern Ireland means that there will always be conflict between them	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD4</i> d. Having different cultural traditions in Northern Ireland enriches us all	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CULTRAD5</i> e. My cultural tradition is always the underdog	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q41 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements.
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't choose
<i>PRIOREQ</i> a. It should be a top priority for government to make sure that Protestants and Catholics are treated equally	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RIGTCATH</i> b. There is always talk about the rights of Catholics but never about the rights of Protestants	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>RIGTPROT</i> c. There is always talk about the rights of Protestants but never about the rights of Catholics	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q42 From what you know or have heard, can you tell me whether you think the following institutions are well run or not well run?
(Please circle the appropriate number on each line.)

	Very well run	Well run	Not very well run	Not at all well run	Can't choose
<i>DHSSRUN</i> The DHSS in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	8
<i>HOSPTRUN</i> Hospital Trusts in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	8
<i>DENIRUN</i> The Department of Education in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	8
<i>NIHERUN</i> The Northern Ireland Housing Executive	1	2	3	4	8
<i>DOERUN</i> The Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland	1	2	3	4	8

